

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) Arrangement of several ferrules for optical waveguides with ~~at least one~~ a plurality of connection sections, wherein at least two ferrules are connected with one another by the at least one connection section, and the connection sections form a belt on which the ferrules are detachably fixed.

2. (cancelled) ~~Arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of mutually connected ferrules form a belt.~~

3. (original) Arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the connection sections are flexible.

4. (currently amended) Arrangement according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ connection sections have ~~has~~ a section fixing the ferrules to the belt of a reduced cross-section.

5. (cancelled) ~~Arrangement of several ferrules for optical waveguides having a continuous belt, wherein the ferrules are arranged and fixed on the belt.~~

6. (currently amended) Arrangement according to Claim 1 5, wherein the continuous belt is a plastic injection-molded part.

7. (original) Arrangement according to Claim 6, wherein a belt segment for the injection-molding-on of another belt segment has a geometry by which the two belt segments are locked.

8. (currently amended) Arrangement according to Claim 1 5, wherein the plastic ferrules are connected in one piece with the belt.

9. (original) Arrangement according to Claim 8, wherein the ferrules and the belt are connected with one another at an end area of the ferrule.

10. (currently amended) Arrangement according to Claim 1 5, wherein the belt is formed by mutually connected U-shaped bridge segments.

11. (currently amended) Arrangement according to Claim 1 5, wherein the belt includes an upper and a lower belt between which the plastic ferrules are received.

12. (currently amended) Arrangement according to Claim 1 5, wherein the plastic ferrules are fixed on the belt such that the ferrules can be rotated about a longitudinal axis.

13. (withdrawn) Process for producing a belt having plastic ferrules, comprising:

injection-molding a first plastic ferrule,
conveying the first plastic ferrule by a defined distance, and
injection-molding a second plastic ferrule, so that the second ferrule is connected with the first plastic ferrule.

14. (withdrawn) Process according to Claim 13, wherein a belt segment is injection-molded with the plastic ferrules, the connection of the ferrules taking place by way of the belt segments.

15. (currently amended) A method of coupling an optical waveguide, comprising:

providing an arrangement of ferrules,
locating a ferrule of the arrangement over an end of the optical waveguide,
separating the ferrule from the arrangement of ferrules, and
fastening the ferrule to the optical waveguide,
wherein the arrangement of ferrules has ~~at least one~~ a plurality of
connection sections, ~~and~~ at least two ferrules are connected with one another by
~~the at least one connection section, and the connection sections form a belt on~~
which the ferrules are detachably fixed.

16. (cancelled) ~~A method according to Claim 15, wherein a plurality of mutually connected ferrules of the arrangement of ferrules form a belt.~~

17. (original) A method according to Claim 15, wherein the connection sections are flexible.

18. (cancelled) ~~A method according to Claim 15, wherein the arrangement of ferrules is a continuous belt with the ferrules arranged and fixed on the belt.~~

19. (original) A method according to Claim 18, wherein the belt is formed by mutually connected U-shaped bridge segments.

20. (original) A method of making ferrules for optical waveguides, comprising:

providing a continuous belt, and

arranging and fixing the ferrules on the belt.

21. (original) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the ferrules are connected in one piece with the belt.

22. (original) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the belt includes an upper and a lower belt, between which the ferrules are received.

23. (currently amended) A method of making ferrules for optical waveguides, comprising:

providing at least two ferrules with ~~at least one~~ a plurality of connection sections, and

connecting the at least two ferrules with one another by ~~the~~ at least one connection section, wherein the connection sections form a belt on which the ferrules are detachably fixed.

24. (cancelled) ~~A method according to Claim 23, wherein a plurality of mutually connected ferrules form a belt.~~

25. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 23 24, wherein the connection sections are flexible.